

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>

Email: fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au

PO Box 296 Rockdale NSW 2216

Frogwatch Helpline 0419 249 728

Website: www.fats.org.au

ABN: 34 282 154 794

NEWSLETTER No. 123 February 2013

Cyclorana maini adult – Photo Harald Ehmann



Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

Friday 1st February

**FATS meet at the Education Centre,
Bicentennial Pk, Sydney Olympic Park**

Easy walk from Concord West railway station and straight down Victoria Ave..

By car: Enter from Australia Ave at the Bicentennial Park main entrance,

turn off to the right and drive through the park. It's a one way road.

Or enter from Bennelong Road / Parkway.

It's a short stretch of two way road.

Park in p10f car park, the last car park before the exit gate.

MEETING FORMAT Friday 1st February 2013

6.30 pm There are only a few lost frogs needing forever homes. Contact us before the meeting to confirm if any frogs are coming to the meeting. Please bring your FATS membership card and cash \$40 - \$50 donation. Your NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night. Rescued frogs can never be released.

7.00pm Welcome and announcements.

7.30 pm Main speaker: Eric Vanderduys, talented naturalist and author of the recently released *Field Guide to the Frogs of Queensland*. He will talk about "The back cover: stories of the Queensland frogs behind the book" see page 10

Emily Stratins: Frog habitat selection in a peri-urban environment; do frogs avoid weeds?"

Jilli Streit: Smiths Lake Field Trip Report

9.00 pm Show us your frog images, tell us about your frogging trips or experiences, guessing competition, continue with frog adoptions, supper & a chance to relax and chat with frog experts.

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GERMAN FROGS 2012 – PRESENTATION BY RAINER ENKE



LAST MEETING FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2012

Rainer Enke spoke about German frogs of Northern Bavaria seen between May and August 2012 (above). Finally, after several reschedules to make time for other speakers in 2012, Arthur White talked to us about the strangest amphibian, Caecilians. Cliff Wiltshire's local Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodystes peroni* very interesting video clip with frog sounds, was played see <http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Limnodystes/peroni/> (thanks Cliff) and the Frog-O-Graphic competition for 2012 was announced including the voting on the night for the People's Choice Award.

Punia Jeffery opened our Christmas party meeting, welcoming everyone, encouraging newcomers to make themselves known to the executive and advising those attending of FATS announcements. FATS is very excited to advise that Marion Anstis' new book "Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia" will be released later this year. Copies will be available for sale at FATS meetings in late 2013. The Australian Herpetological Society (AHS) will be holding a conference on the Central Coast from 29 January to 1 February 2013 (registration has closed I believe).

Arthur White spoke about the history, attributes and distribution of highly specialised Caecilians. There are

three main groups of modern amphibians: frogs and toads which are tailless in the adult form, salamanders, having a very distinctive tail in the adult form and the least studied, limbless, caecilians, which look like earth worms and have a large number of vertebrae. In 1735 Dutch pharmacist and merchant Albert Seba described it as a snake. By 1811 Michael Oppel re-categorised them as reptiles. By 1859 they were classed as degenerative salamanders. Their permeable skin makes them vulnerable to polluted air and water. Their unusual attributes clearly deserve a great deal of study but they are declining at an alarming rate. Thank you for all your informative and riveting presentations Arthur. FATS members are very privileged to have such a gifted and knowledgeable scientist as our president and speaker at so many of our meetings.



Map: International Wildlife Encyclopaedia 2002
Also see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caecilian>

Rainer Enke spoke about his trip to Germany in 2012. There are some frogs and toads in Germany that follow predictable movement corridors, unlike most Australian frogs that tend to move in any direction. To avoid mass fatalities on the roads, that the native German toads cross, authorities have set up vehicular detours in the evening from 8pm to midnight to help toads that have a well known over winter resting area and well known summer breeding site.



The most common toad *Bufo bufo* Erdkröte

Below is a photo of the long fences that stop toads wandering from the forest onto roadways. Volunteers collect the toads that have come to cross the road. The toads are stopped by the fences that they are unable to climb over. They are placed in buckets and taken by volunteers safely to the summer breeding ponds on the other side of the road. Six months later, at the beginning of May, the fences are moved to the other side of the road and volunteers again collect the toads in buckets and take them back to the forest side of the road. Thank you for such an entertaining, insightful and informative presentation Rainer.



***Rana temporaria* Grasfrosch**



Newer roads have underpasses.



LAST MEETING CONTINUED from page 3

2012 Winners, Frogo-O-Graphic competition, 77 entries, see December Frogcall No. 122 for photos

Best frog image (1) Wallum Sedge Frog *Litoria olongburensis* Marion Anstis
Most interesting image Green-eyed Tree Frog *Litoria serrata* Arthur White
Best Image (2) Giant Barred Frog *Mixophyes iteratus* Veronica Silver
Most interesting image (2) Ornate Burrowing frog *Platyplectrum ornatus* Arthur White
Best Senior Frog Art Marie Callins
Best junior Frog Art Ryan Little
People's Choice Award White-lipped Tree Frog *Litoria infrafrenata* tadpoles Marion Anstis

Those attending the meeting received a small folding poster, Christmas present, from wildlife ecologist Peter Ridgeway from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority "Wildlife of Western Sydney, Frogs".

Loads of people won raffle prizes and everyone enjoyed the Christmas feast. Thank you to Karen White, Wendy Grimm and many others for providing the tasty Christmas supper. **Monica Wangmann** October meeting see page 5

An ABC TV Catalyst program with reports of Nullarbor bio monitoring – by none other than Harald Ehmman, is due to go on air on 28 February.

True to form he will be spicing it with lots of excitement and Nullarbor herpetology.



**Harald Ehmman & George Madani October FATS meeting
Photo by Phillip Grimm**

In 1992 FATS budded from the Australian Herpetological Society (or AHS), which was a group of mad-keen reptile and frog lovers. In the early years, the froggers in the group began holding their own meetings after the AHS meetings. In 1991, Harald Ehmman raised the possibility of creating a frog interest group. From this idea, FATS was spawned.

The first official meeting of FATS was held at Sydney Technical College (now the University of Technology) at Ultimo on the 10th of December 1991. Nine hardy souls attended that meeting (but there were 15 apologies). The early meetings were heavily devoted to the new legislation concerning threatened and endangered frogs. A Private Members Bill had been upheld in parliament that meant that

frogs were now legally acknowledged as animals in New South Wales and that the conservation status of many species needed to be resolved. Various members of FATS made submissions to the State Government regarding the apparent abundance of certain frog species- the combined input from the frogging community formed the basis for the initial determination of the threatened and endangered frogs in this state. **Arthur White (extract from Frogcall 116)**



**Cyclorana maini tadpole eating metamorph
photos by Harald Ehmman
*Pseudophryne robinsoni***





Matt Greenlees at our October FATS meeting
Photo by Phillip Grimm

FATS MEETING FRIDAY 5th OCTOBER, 2012

Introduction by Punia Jeffery Robert Wall
 announced the following field trips:

Darkes Forest for Saturday 6th October leader Ken Griffiths. Smith's Lake Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th November, leader Arthur White, contact Karen White. Watagans' trip in December leaders Brad and Matt McCaffery

Matt Greenlees from University of Sydney talked about Radio Tracking of Cane Toads.

Matt started investigating Cane Toads and their interactions with other mammals, fishes and reptiles at Fogg Dam NT, as an Honours project with Prof. Rick Shine in 2004. Matt continued at University of Sydney with a PhD in the area of Cane Toads interactions with frog species. Matt presented a detailed description of the Cane Toad's history and its breeding characteristics; the pervasive nature of the toad's toxin through from the female's ovaries to the egg and tadpole stages and to metamorphs and adult toads. The rate of advance of the invasion front from east to west across the top of Australia (55km/year) compared with NSW (10-15km/year) was attributed to longer legs developed by the northern population. Matt also spoke of the work on the cane toad infestation in the Sutherland Shire and Taren Point in the last few years. Over 500 toads had been collected from March 2010 to Feb 2012. The Sutherland population is probably under control with only two found so far this season.

Problems caused by cane toads fall into two main areas: they eat and compete with native species and they poison native predators including frogs, reptiles, birds and mammals. Matt discussed mortality rates for the predators and observations of species which were less susceptible to the toxin such as populations of Bluetongue lizards previously exposed to the succulent exotic plant mother-of-millions. He explained strategies developed by other animals, avoidance training experiments and the use of the attractive nature of toad toxin as a bait for large-scale trapping of toad tadpoles. Thank you for an excellent presentation Matt.

Matt's current project includes tracking Cane Toads in the Clarence Valley NSW.

Harald Ehmann, the founding chairperson of FATS on a visit from Adelaide, talked about "To dry is to die – frog life in central Australia". Harald (left in photo) works with Aboriginal people of the Pitjantjatjara and Yangkuntjatjara nations (Anangu) in the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Region of northern and western South Australia. Harald described strategies used by desert frogs to retain their moisture, including burrowing vertically down to 1.6 m into loosely compacted desert sand. In the Desert Trilling Frog the webbing from the side of the body to the knee is an adaption for burrowing through loose dry surface sand. Species in this Region include *Platyplectron spenceri*, *Cyclorana maini*, *Neobatrachus centralis/sudelli* and *N. sutor*, *Litoria rubella*, and in some of the central ranges, the Springs Frogs, only one of which has very recently been described as *Pseudophryne robinsoni*. There are very likely two and possibly even three species of Springs Frogs in relatively few of the 30+ springs in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yangkuntjatjara Lands.

Feral animals such as donkeys, horses and camels pollute the watercourse springs and associated waterpools that Springs Frogs depend on. Springs Frogs are naturally impacted by too much water when heavy rains produce huge torrents in the creek beds with springs, and probably by too little water due to extraction from the spring-feeding aquifers.

Predation by large *Cyclorana maini* tadpoles on smaller Springs Frogs tadpoles and on the vulnerable metamorphs is a natural risk, as is predation by all ages of *Cyclorana maini* frogs. Competition in the tadpole stages with other co-existing species may be a factor in mostly limiting the Springs Frogs to pools in solid rock. These pools are often inaccessible or unsuited to the other species that require soil to burrow into. This accounts for the absence of Springs Frogs tadpoles in downstream pools that are accessible to and used by the burrowing species.

Ongoing work includes searches for additional occurrences of Springs Frogs at sites still to be checked, monitoring of known populations and their threats, developing a Threatened Species Plan, and management of the threatening factors. Anangu are involved at each stage of the work, and their involvement includes training so that they can take over and continue the work in the future. Thanks for such yet another entertaining and informative presentation Harald.

Donated packages of crickets and flies from Gerry Marantelli of the Amphibian Research Centre, Vic were shared with members. Contact ARC (www.frogs.org.au) if you wish to purchase these items as the income will help ARC fund research on Australian frogs. **Wendy Grimm**



Neobatrachus groin webbing Photo Harald Ehmann



Surviving section of stairway showing frog iconography. Frog Altar, Tenochtitlan. (under excavation and restoration).

FROGS, SERPENTS, WORSHIP AND SACRIFICE IN ANCIENT MEXICO

The great archaeological ruins of Mexico are richly decorated with many ornate carvings of frogs and snakes. Both were powerful symbols of religious and cultural ritual. For the great city-building societies of ancient Mexico (i.e. the Olmec, Aztec, Mayan, Toltec and the unknown builders of the great city of Teotihuacan), this highly elaborate form of frog and serpent worship became a notable, recurring theme. More remarkably, these ritual symbols seemingly arose independently many times, often many centuries apart. This repetition of thought was often spread across widely dispersed, quite insular, and often quite disparate empires.



Serpent heads, El Castillo, Chichen Itza.

Why this unusual phenomenon and why this obsession with frogs and snakes? The answer perhaps lies with the geography of Mexico.

MEXICO - A DIVERSE GEOGRAPHY

Nearly all the climatic extremes found around the globe can be found in Mexico. Common to many of these ecological zones however, is the shortage of water. Much of Mexico experiences a dry season, with relief only coming with the onset of summer rains. High mountain regions simply lie above the rain clouds. Even the lowland jungle of the Yucatan Peninsula can be deceptively luxuriant in appearance. Much of this rainforest sits on a flat, low-lying limestone platform, rain quickly percolates down through the limestone strata into vast subterranean rivers. Despite plentiful rain, surface water can be frustratingly scarce.

Often, the only source of permanent water within this limestone region is the cenote, a large opening which forms when the roof of a cave collapses to reveal, often quite spectacularly, an underground source of water.



Cenote - popular tourist attractions today, but once a place of worship and sacrifice. Ik Kil Cenote, Yucatan Peninsula.

From remote antiquity to modern day, most Mexicans have had to deal with chronic water shortages.

WATER, WORSHIP AND SACRIFICE

Rain was the lifeblood of a city. Not surprisingly, many ancient cities paid close attention to frogs. Croaking frogs announced the beginning of the rainy season. Frogs quickly became associated with rain and storm gods, and these gods became important deities in the pre-columbian pantheon. These gods needed to be appeased and cajoled, often with gifts of the human kind. Human hearts, apparently, were particularly appreciated by Mexican gods!

Serpents were associated with swampy areas. For the ancient Mexico, many gods dwelled in the underworld, and snakes were seen to have a menacing association with the ground. Snakes became particularly feared and powerful symbols. The snake was truly a dichotomous character, at one and the same time it represented life, greenness and peace (alluding to their association with life-giving watery and swampy environments), it also represented heat, the desert and war (snakes also had an association with arid regions). The most important deity of ancient Mexico is undoubtedly the "Feathered Serpent".



Façade detail, La Ciudadela

"Temple of the Feathered Serpent", Teotihuacan.

The Feathered Serpent's divine ability to fly between the underworld and the sacred mountains above provided early Mexicans with an important link between good and evil.

Robert Wall

Myths about pool conversions

► It's mosquito heaven

No, the species of mosquitoes that lives in water deeper than 30 centimetres isn't the one that bites. The fish in the pool eat mosquito wrigglers – biters and non-biters alike.

► It's dirty

No, random tests found all

were within Australian and New Zealand safety standards for water quality.

► It's permanent

No, it's reversible.

► It's expensive

The cheapest option is turning off the power and using it as a giant rainwater tank.



Water relief ... Callan Spielman wades in the family's former swimming pool, which has become a pond. It is now swarming with native fish and frogs. Photo: Mick Tsikas

Little fish in a big pond save power – and the planet

Julie Power

EVEN as a kid taking a dip in a friend's swimming pool, Derek Spielman would think about how it would be much better if it was full of turtles. Now his own backyard swimming pool is one of 50 on Sydney's north shore that have been turned into ponds, saving thousands of dollars on power and water bills.

There are no turtles, but Dr Spielman's pool at his home in Gordon is swarming with native fish, such as empire and spotted gudgeons and Pacific blue eye. It's noisy with a chorus of frogs and full of water lilies and other aquatic plants, attracting native birds, dragonflies and bees.

There's not a mosquito in sight

(or sound) because the gudgeons eat the mosquito wrigglers. And the mosquito species that live in water deeper than 30 centimetres don't bite humans.

"I wanted to turn our pool into a pond for years," said Dr Spielman, adding that it took some time to convince his wife.

After realising that the family of four used the pool only six times in one year, they decided to turn it into a pond.

"It was costing us a lot of time and money, and nobody used it," he said.

Most people who don't use their pools think they have only two expensive options: chlorinate or fill them in, said Peter Clarke, the co-ordinator of Kuring-gai Council's "wild things"

smh.com.au

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012

program. Few realised if they turned off the power, and stopped chlorinating the water, it would slowly turn into an inexpensive "giant rainwater tank without a lid", Mr Clarke said.

Kuring-gai's program is special because it actively encourages households to do something good for the environment with their unused pools. Mr Clarke is used to countering arguments from naysayers who presume these pools are dirty breeding grounds for mosquitoes and bacteria.

"When you look at a disused pool, you presume it must be a danger to health. The leaves gather, it is dark on the bottom and you see mosquito wrigglers," he said. But random tests for ecoli and other bacteria by the University of Sydney on eight pools converted to ponds found all were within the guidelines for primary water contact.

They're also fine for a quick dip, as Callan Spielman, 23, showed Fairfax Media.

"We've seen pools not looked after for years and years, and the water is always clear," Mr Clarke said. These conversions are also reversible.

In some cases, households are using the ponds as biobanks, stocking native fish.

Dear FATS Member, If you have converted or are thinking of converting your pool to a pond, would you please let the rest of us know? Any pictures would be great. Do you remember the Frogmobile's poster displays on this subject? Or Mike Archer and Bob Beale's great book "Going Native"? If you're looking for still more inspiration, just google "pool to pond conversion". **Lothar Voigt**

The recently published article below is written about the parasite that a little rescued FATS *Litoria gracilentia* is carrying. It is open access, which means anyone has access to the article online. Veterinary Lee Peacock has been treating many of our rescued frogs. Abstract

EMERGING MYXOSPOREAN PARASITES OF AUSTRALIAN FROGS TAKE A RIDE WITH FRESH FRUIT TRANSPORT

Ashlie Hartigan^{1,3*}, Lee Peacock^{1,2†}, Alex Rosenwax²,
David N Phalen¹ and Jan Šlapeta^{1*}

Background: The spread of wildlife pathogens into new geographical ranges or populations is a conservation concern for endangered species. *Cystodiscus australis* and *Cystodiscus axonis* are two species of myxosporean parasites infecting Australian frogs and tadpoles that have been recently recognised as important disease agents impacting amphibian conservation. Yet despite their importance to wildlife health, the mechanism of emergence for these parasites is unknown. We hypothesise that these parasites are capable of being accidentally translocated with their amphibian hosts in fresh produce (agricultural, horticultural and industrial) shipments into naïve environments and host populations.

Methods: We surveyed 33 Australian “Banana box” frogs from Sydney fruit markets during 2011 using faecal smears and multiplex species specific PCR on DNA isolated from frog faeces or using histopathology to demonstrate the presence of both *C. australis* and *C. axonis*.

Results: One of the “Banana box” frogs, the Dainty green tree frog (*Litoria gracilentia*) was positive for *C. Australis* and *C. axonis* in its faeces and continuously shed the parasites for eight months.

Conclusions: We present a possible mechanism for the emergence of *Cystodiscus* parasites and a non-invasive screening method to be used as a diagnostic test. In the future, vigilance and communication between wildlife managers/researchers and veterinarians will provide valuable information about these parasites, their host range and true distribution. This will aid risk management assessments for threatened populations within the range of *Cystodiscus* parasites and ultimately enhance conservation efforts.

<http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/5/1/208/abstract>
<http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/pdf/1756-3305-5-208.pdf>

FROGS, WILDLIFE AND BACK YARD POOLS

Pool owners...now that summer season is here, it is time to think about frogs seeking moisture and breeding conditions in the summer season in the pools.

There are risks for frogs where they can get into water, into pools but will have trouble getting out due to high smooth walls. They often cling to walls in exhaustion, go into skimmer box for refuge during day from bird predation. A pool pump running on timer will unfortunately mean the demise of the frogs in the skimmer box or in the drains. Here are a few suggestions that will help preserve life and safety of the frogs which find their way into the pool. Let FATS know if you have other good strategies.

1- a rope with a foam attached to it to float in pool with one end tied to fence or a fixed feature nearest to pool as to avoid being sucked into the skimmer box.

2- foam or floating shapes in the pool will provide the relief for struggling frog to exit the pool.

3- check skimmer boxes regularly and put metal galvanized (will not rust) mesh on top of the bowl, or skimmer inlet and a rock that has part of it above water so the frog can sit on rock while the water is sucked into the pumps. (cut part of door security or the drain mesh from any hardware store).

Daily checking of the pool will help spot any eggs floating or stuck on the surface under the paving or the eaves of pool edges. Sometimes a storm blown stick will have eggs on it later on so daily checks will spot and ensure the survival of frogs in your area. Raising tadpoles from eggs isn't hard. Keep water conditions neutral, put some leaf matter and use sun light a few hours a day, feed blanched lettuce about a teaspoonful or a pinch of spirulina, a body builders powder with protein which tadpoles eat. Change water weekly with cooled boiled water. Release in the bush nearest you with a creek or pond. If unsure, contact FATS. **Riona Twomey**

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/wildlife_pool_safety.html

SAVING THE URBAN FROG RADIO NATIONAL LIFE MATTERS

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/saving-the-urban-frog/4316708>

World-wide, frog species are in decline, a signal of ecosystems under stress. So how can we preserve frog species in our cities? As housing developments swallow up the green space on the urban fringe, are backyard ponds a lifeline for threatened frogs? **Forwarded to Frogcall by Wendy Grimm**



Urban frogs squeezed out
Harry Hines courtesy of QPWS

AMPHIBIAN LICENCE RETURNS DUE 30 APRIL

All licensed native animal keepers are required to maintain a fauna record book and lodge it with the Department's Wildlife Licensing and Management Unit by 30 April each year. Previously only paper based books have been available. Now, an easy to use internet based fauna record book is available to all current licensees who have email. All licensees will still be required to lodge their annual holdings by April each year. However, this can now easily be done using the e-book system which will save on postage and handling costs.
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/electronicFaunaRecordBook.htm>

**Threatened Giant Barred Frog *Mixophyes iterates*
from the Bangalow photo by Veronica**



**CHYTRID FUNGUS, CRAYFISH - USA:
NON-AMPHIBIAN HOSTS**

Crayfish have been secretly spreading a deadly frog epidemic. Around the world, the decline of hundreds of amphibian species has been linked to the mysterious and deadly chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. More than 300 species are nearly extinct because of this epidemic, and many more have probably already been lost to the disease.

Until now, researchers thought the fungus occurred only in amphibians, since no studies demonstrated that the fungus can grow on live non-amphibian hosts. National Geographic explains the perplexing situation:

One of the biggest mysteries is how chytrid can persist in a frogless pond. Researchers saw it happen many times and were perplexed: If all of a pond's amphibians were wiped out, and a few frogs or salamanders came back and recolonized the pond, they would also die -- even though there were no amphibians in the pond to harbor the disease.

New research refutes the assumption that only amphibians can carry the disease, however. Field collections in Louisiana and Colorado found that up to 29 percent of the live crayfish recovered were harbouring the fungus. The team also found that crayfish presence was a strong predictor of amphibian infection with the fungus.

Bringing their findings back to the lab, the researchers discovered that crayfish maintain the infection for up to 12 weeks. Over 90 percent of crayfish exposed to the disease in contaminated water became infected, 36 percent of which died as a result. Water that the authors filtered to remove the fungus still caused some crayfish to die or resulted in gill infections in others, implying that the fungus may release chemicals that contribute to pathology even in the absence of infection, though this requires further investigation. Finally, they confirmed that crayfish can indeed pass the infection on to amphibians.

No one knows for sure where the fungus originally came from or why it's been such a problem in recent decades, but this research suggests one way that it could have been

spread. Crayfish are sometimes moved from pond to pond as fish bait and are sold around the world as food and aquarium pets.

Their results may eventually help explain *B. dendrobatidis*' virulence, persistence, and patterns of spread. And as scientists learn more about which species carry the disease, their research could lead to new strategies for managing this pandemic. The more we can discover about this disease, the better chance we have of eventually finding a solution before the majority of the world's amphibians succumb to a fungal death.

promed@promedmail.org

[This discovery highlights the crucial importance of looking at all the hierarchies of biological organization, and not only the focal host and parasite/pathogen, to unveil the ecology of a particular disease.

B. dendrobatidis is generally thought of as an amphibian specialist that consumes host keratin for sustenance, despite it commonly being maintained in the laboratory on non-keratinized media, such as tryptone. Numerous vertebrate and invertebrate taxa possess keratin or keratin-like compounds in their gastrointestinal tracts. Hence, it is not surprising that previous researchers have hypothesized that there might be non-amphibian hosts or vectors of *B. dendrobatidis*.

Portions of this comment were extracted from <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/12/19/1200592110.full.pdf+html> [subscription required].

<http://www.promedmail.org> ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org> 18 Dec 2012 Source:

Smithsonian.com

<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/smartnews/2012/12/crayfish-have-been-secretly-spreading-a-deadly-frog-epidemic> forwarded to Frogcall by Marion Anstis



My name is Caroline Box and I live in Turrumurra and have a spare fibreglass pond which I was wondering if one of your members could use? It's approximate dimensions are: 1.6 m by 1.1m (at it's longest and widest) and approx. 30 cm deep and kidney shaped. If you have a member that is prepared to pick it up from Turrumurra (near Hornsby), we would be delighted for it to go to a good home! c.box@unswalumni.com

FACEBOOK FRIENDS FOR FATS

Pet frog photo by FATS Facebook friend Mia Lee

American Green Tree Frog *Hyla cinerea*



FATS have 384 members from across the planet, on Facebook, and growing. We get lots of enquiries and posts.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>



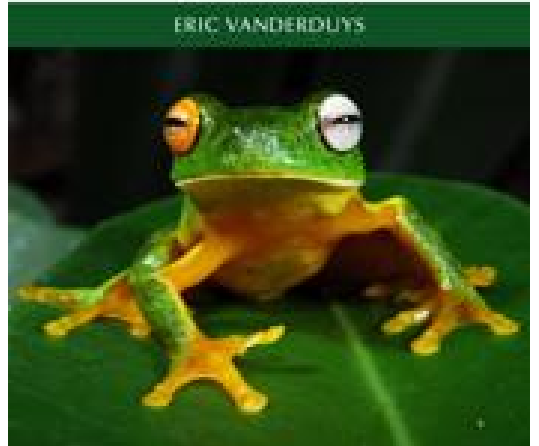
Regular field trip site, Smiths Lake NSW, photo by Riona Twomey
FATS member and Facebook friend

FIELD GUIDE TO THE FROGS OF QUEENSLAND



FIELD GUIDE TO THE **FROGS** OF QUEENSLAND

ERIC VANDERDUYS



Our main speaker for February is Eric Vanderduys writer of "Field Guide to the Frogs of Queensland" 2012. Information about the book: "Frogs are remarkably variable creatures. Many species adopt different colours or patterns by day or night. In some cases, males are different from females, and many species can change their appearance remarkably when breeding.

Field Guide to the Frogs of Queensland provides a comprehensive photographic guide to the 132 species of frogs in Queensland, Australia's most species-rich state. It enables identification of all Queensland species and clearly points out pitfalls that may lead to misidentification. Species profiles list common and scientific names, information on size, call and preferred habitat, as well as points of interest for each species. The conservation status of all threatened species is listed and there are special sections devoted to disappearing frogs and the Cane Toad. Generously illustrated with one or more photographs for each species, the book also includes distribution maps, line illustrations which demonstrate key features, and keys to each family, genus and species." Posted on FATS Facebook page and extracts appeared in the Inner West Courier page 15 on 24 January 2013.



For sale is a custom built frog tank with inbuilt pond and waterfall. It is a Exo Terra Glass Terrarium (L 60 x H 45 x D 45) . It features a mesh top, front glass opening doors, exo terra canopy top light holder & 3x 10.0 Globes, reptile one water heater, crushed granite substrate, exo terra heat wave mat (heats the rocks), pump to run the waterfall, magnetic ledge, artificial plants ad water plants, medium sized pebbles in pond. The setup also comes with 1 Adult Green Tree Frog & 1 Adult Magnificent Tree Frog. if interested please call 0409529309 or email karenarckerley@bigpond.com

INSURANCE DISCLAIMER FATS has public liability insurance for its various public functions. This insurance does not cover FATS members; it covers the public and indemnifies FATS. We are currently checking with insurance firms to see whether a realistic group policy can be organised to cover FATS volunteers and people who attend field trips. **FATS MEETINGS** commence at 7 pm, (arrive 6.30pm) and end about 10pm at the Education Centre Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay. They are usually held on the **first Friday of every EVEN month** February, April, June, August, October and December (but not Good Friday). We hold 6 informative, informal, topical and practical free meetings each year. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations, other field studies; produce the newsletter FROGCALL and FROGFACTS information sheets. All expressions of opinion and information are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as an official opinion of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group Committee, unless expressly so stated. **Material from FROGCALL MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED** without the prior consent of the writer, photographer, editor or president of FATS. Permission from FATS and/or author/s must be obtained prior to any commercial use of material. The author/s and sources must be always fully acknowledged.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ Thank you to the many Frogcall supporters. Specially to regular newsletter contributors, including Lothar Voigt, Robert Wall, George Madani, Karen & Arthur White, Wendy & Phillip Grimm, Grant Webster, Marion Anstis, Andrew & David Nelson and Bill Wangmann. ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

FATS CONTACTS

phone

email

Arthur White	President	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	lARTHUR@tpg.com.au
Andre Rank	Vice President		wylee_ec@hotmail.com
Wendy Grimm	Secretary	(02) 9144 5600	wagrimm@tpg.com.au
Punia Jeffery	Chairperson	(02) 9969 1932	puniajeffery@yahoo.com.au
Karen White	Treasurer	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	lARTHUR@tpg.com.au
Andrew Nelson	Membership Officer	(02) 9411 6068	awnelson@optusnet.com.au
Vicki Deluca	Committee Member	0408 231 447	delucax6@optusnet.com.au
Kathy Potter	Publicity/Exhibitions Officer	(02) 9456 6909	kathy@the-pottery.org
Sheila Briffa	Assistant Exhibitions Officer	0411 344 231	sheila99@tpg.com.au
Robert Wall	Field Trips Coordinator	(02) 9681 5308	rjw2008@live.com.au
Marion Anstis	Web Associate	(02) 9456 1698	frogpole@tpg.com.au
Phillip Grimm	Web Master	(02) 9144 5600	phigrimm@gmail.com
Lothar Voigt	Committee Member	(02) 9371 9129	lothar@virginbroadband.com.au
Monica Wangmann	Editor	(02) 9797 6543 0418 992 766	wangmann@tig.com.au

FIELD TRIPS.

Please book your place on field-trips; due to strong demand, numbers are limited (ph. 9681-5308). Be sure to leave a contact number. Regardless of prevailing weather conditions, we will continue to schedule and advertise all monthly field-trips as planned. It is YOUR responsibility to re-confirm, in the final days, whether the field-trip is proceeding or has been cancelled. Phone Robert on ph. 9681-5308.

9th February. 8.30 p.m. Castlereagh Nature Reserve. Leader: Peter Spradbrow.

**This fieldtrip was cancelled in September due to hot, dry gale-force winds.
Peter has kindly agreed to re-run this trip again.**

Meet at the Shell Service Station, Richmond Rd, Berkshire Park, (opp. Windsor Downs Estate). It is located between St Marys Rd. and Llandilo Rd., Berkshire Park.

The First Fleet constructed the first sawpits at Botany Bay for the milling of local timber on 21 January 1788. When the site of settlement shifted to Sydney Cove, orders were given to dig fresh pits on 26 January, 1788. The felling of timber (and destruction of habitat) thus became associated with the growth of Sydney from its earliest days. In no time at all, the extensive waterways of Sydney Harbour proved a convenient means of both accessing forests and transporting logs at a time when labour and animal 'muscle' in the colony was scarce. As 'convenient' sites became progressively exhausted, outlying sites like Castlereagh were eventually gazetted as timber reserves. Castlereagh for many years was selectively logged. Fortunately, it eventually became a nature reserve. Tonight we will look at the froglife of this reserve and we will contemplate the wildlife that 'might have been' if authorities had only been more prudent in setting aside native forest/wildlife reserves in and around the Sydney area. Peter has had a long association with wildlife and with the public education of wildlife issues. He has a fine reputation in herpetological societies and the broader natural history world. Tonight he will show us his 'backyard' at Castlereagh.

This concludes our Spring/Summer Fieldtrips programme for the 2012/2013 season. Due to the high number of cancelled fieldtrips this season (due to the exceedingly dry summer conditions), we are hoping to put together an autumn fieldtrip for members. Watch Frogcall for announcements.

In the event of uncertain frogging conditions (e.g. prolonged / severe drought, hazardous and/or torrential rain, bushfires etc.), please phone 9681-5308. Remember ! - rain is generally ideal for frogging ! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring enclosed shoes that can get wet (gumboots are preferable), torch, warm clothing and raincoat. Please be judicious with the use of insect repellent - frogs are very sensitive to chemicals ! Please observe all directions that the leader may give. Children are welcome, however please remember that young children especially can become very excited and boisterous at their first frogging experience – parents are asked to help ensure that the leader is able to conduct the trip to everyone's satisfaction. All field trips are strictly for members only - newcomers are however, welcome to take out membership before the commencement of the field-trip. All participants accept that there is some inherent risk associated with outdoor fieldtrips and by attending agree to; a release of all claims, a waiver of liability, and an assumption of risk.

FROGS AND REPTILES AT THE 2013 ROYAL EASTER SHOW

The 2013 Sydney Royal Easter Show, Frog & Reptile competition will be held on 2 and 3 April. FATS will be represented there.

Lizards will be judged on Tuesday the 2nd of April, 2013. Snakes will be judged on Wednesday the 3rd of April, 2013. Frogs will be across both days, but judged on the Tuesday. Entry fee for people bringing pets to be judged: \$35 per animal for 1 - 3 animals. \$25 per animal for 4 or more. Entry fee includes access to the Easter Show. P5 Parking will be available for purchase. Pricing yet to be determined by the RAS. P5 is closest to the Wynne Pavilion, the home of the frog & reptile competition. Animals are vetted between 7.30am and 8am. Judging starts around 8.30am. Show opens 9.30am. Animals can be removed at 5pm. Minor placings will be awarded ribbons before 10am each day. Major winners will be announced 4.30pm both days, with Grand Prize winners included in the announcements on Wednesday. To enter, simply email us a photo (max size 2.5mb) of each animal being entered, along with the species name & common name, and your contact details. Entry fee is not required to be paid at this point. We will notify you (around Feb 10) if your entry has been successful in making a class at the show, and then you can decide to proceed, in which case the entry fee is payable. Entries close Feb 10, 2013. Classes to be contested will be decided based on entries received. So send in all categories of lizards, frogs & non venomous snakes.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. All the above and more can be found at www.wildexpo.com.au.

Mark Harvey Wild Australia Expos Pty Ltd Incorporating The Wild Australia Expo The Australian Frog & Reptile Show The Sydney Royal Frog & Reptile Competition Ph: 9144 7323 PO Box 569 Turrumurra NSW 2074